

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
 - a first audio input/output (I/O) connector provided for coupling to a first audio I/O device;
 - a second audio I/O connector provided for coupling to a second audio I/O device;
 - the first and second connectors being coupled to an audio controller by a circuit; and
 - means for reducing noise coupled onto the first audio I/O connector and limiting such noise from interfacing with a signal from the second audio I/O connector, the means for reducing noise including a field effect transistor
 - coupled to the first and second connectors and to ground, the transistor connected to pull the first device coupled to the first I/O connector to a zero voltage level when the second device is coupled to the second I/O connector;
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a PCI bus connecting a PCI card slot to a card/bus controller, the audio controller connected to the PCI bus, and an I/O controller hub connected to the PCI bus.
3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 2, further comprising a super I/O controller connected to the I/O controller hub.
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first audio I/O connector comprises a jack.
7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the second audio I/O connector comprises a jack.
8. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:
 - a processor;
 - a memory coupled to the processor;
 - an audio controller coupled to the processor;
 - a first audio I/O connector coupled to the audio controller and provided for coupling to a first audio I/O device;
 - a second audio I/O connector coupled to the audio controller and provided for coupling to a second audio I/O device; and
 - a field effect transistor coupled to the first and second connectors and to ground, the transistor connected to pull the first device coupled to the first I/O connector to a zero voltage level when the second device is coupled to the second I/O connector, the transistor functioning as a means for reducing noise coupled onto the first audio I/O connector and limiting such noise from interfacing with a signal from the second audio I/O connector;
9. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim 8, further comprising a PCI bus connected to a PCI card slot and to a card/bus controller, the audio controller connected to the PCI bus, and an I/O controller hub connected to the PCI bus.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 9, further comprising a super I/O controller connected to the I/O controller hub.
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Cancelled).
13. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 8, wherein the first audio I/O connector is a jack.
14. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 13, wherein the second audio I/O connector comprises a jack.
15. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 10, wherein the first and second audio I/O connectors each comprise a jack.
16. (Cancelled).